

Applicants : Les Teichner et al  
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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-25 (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A rain gutter system for buildings, comprising:

a conventional rain gutter having a generally trough-shaped interior, a rear wall extending along a roof ~~fascia~~<sup>fae</sup>ia, a bottom wall and a front lip; and

a gutter cover assembly~~guard~~ for deflecting debris from said interior of said gutter, including:

an elongate gutter cover having a back section extending along an associated roof, a middle section extending over said interior of said gutter, and a front section extending adjacent to said front lip of said gutter; said middle section of said gutter cover having an integrally formed, longitudinally extending, doubled-over fold which projects generally horizontally toward said back section of said gutter cover to define a male coupling member that opens downwardly and has a closed end, and an open end positioned vertically below said closed end to prevent rainwater and debris from collecting in said male coupling member; and

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a mounting bracket operably connected with said gutter and having an intermediate portion supporting said middle section of said gutter cover thereon to deflect debris from said interior of said gutter, and a forward portion supporting said front section of said gutter cover along said front lip of said gutter; said intermediate portion of said mounting bracket having a coupling slot opening generally horizontally toward said front section of said mounting bracket to define a female coupling member that opens downwardly similar to said male coupling member, and in which said male coupling member of said gutter cover is closely received and retained to securely mount said gutter cover on said mounting bracket without separate fasteners.

27. (currently amended) A rain gutter system as set forth in claim 26, wherein:

said coupling slot in said mounting bracket is generally U-shaped with generally parallel opposite sidewalls inclined in a downward direction, a closed end and an open end positioned vertically below said closed end of said coupling slot.

28. (currently amended) A rain gutter system as set forth in claim 27, wherein:

said gutter cover includes a step-shaped lip portion located adjacent to a forward area of said middle section of said gutter cover; and

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said fold in said gutter cover is positioned a spaced distance below and parallel with said middle section of said gutter cover, is oriented generally perpendicular with said step-shaped lip portion and is inclined in an upward direction.

29. (previously presented) A rain gutter system as set forth in claim 28, wherein:

said male coupling member on said gutter cover is shaped for secure, yet detachable, reception in said female coupling member on said mounting bracket.

30. (currently amended) A rain gutter system as set forth in claim 29, including:

at least one gutter hanger supporting said gutter along the fascia~~facia~~ board of the associated roof, and including at least one generally vertically oriented mounting aperture therethrough; and wherein

said mounting bracket includes at least one pin-shaped fastener received and retained in said mounting aperture of said gutter hanger to support said mounting bracket on said gutter hanger.

31. (previously presented) A rain gutter system as set forth in claim 30, wherein:

said pin-shaped fastener comprises a push-in fastener.

32. (previously presented) A rain gutter system as set forth in claim 31, wherein:

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said front section of said gutter cover has an arcuately shaped lip section; and

said forward portion of said mounting bracket has an arcuately shaped forwardmost area shaped similar to and abutting said lip section of said gutter cover.

33. (previously presented) A rain gutter system as set forth in claim 32, wherein:

said gutter cover includes at least one protrusion shaped to impede rainwater flow into said interior of said gutter.

34. (previously presented) A rain gutter system as set forth in claim 33, wherein:

said mounting bracket includes a center wall portion.

35. (previously presented) A rain gutter system as set forth in claim 34, wherein:

said mounting bracket has a one-piece, integrally formed, molded construction of synthetic resin material.

36. (currently amended) A cover assembly~~guard~~ for conventional rain gutters of the type having a generally trough-shaped interior, a rear wall extending along a roof fascia~~faeia~~, a bottom wall and a front lip, comprising:

an elongate gutter cover having a back section shaped to extend along an associated roof, a middle section shaped to extend over the interior of the gutter, and a front section

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shaped to extend adjacent to the front lip of the gutter; said middle section of said gutter cover having an integrally formed, longitudinally extending, doubled-over fold which projects generally horizontally toward said back section of said gutter cover to define a male coupling member that opens downwardly and has a closed end, and an open end positioned vertically below said closed end to prevent rainwater and debris from collecting in said male coupling member; and

a mounting bracket shaped for operable connection with the gutter, and having an intermediate portion supporting said middle section of said gutter cover thereon to deflect debris from the interior of the gutter, and a forward portion shaped to support said front section of said gutter cover along the front lip of the gutter; said intermediate portion of said mounting bracket having a coupling slot opening generally horizontally toward said front section of said mounting bracket to define a female coupling member that opens downwardly similar to said male coupling member, and in which said male coupling member of said gutter cover is closely received and selectively retained to securely mount said gutter cover on said mounting bracket without separate fasteners.

37. (currently amended) A cover assembly~~guard~~ as set forth in claim 36, wherein:

said coupling slot in said mounting bracket is generally U-shaped with generally parallel opposite sidewalls inclined in a downward direction, a closed end and an open end positioned vertically below said closed end of said coupling slot.

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38. (currently amended) A cover assembly~~guard~~ as set forth in claim 37, wherein:

said gutter cover includes a step-shaped lip portion located adjacent to a forward area of said middle section of said gutter cover; and

said fold in said gutter cover is positioned a spaced distance below and parallel with said middle section of said gutter cover, is oriented generally perpendicular with said step-shaped lip portion and is inclined in an upward direction.

39. (currently amended) A cover assembly~~guard~~ as set forth in claim 38, wherein:

said male coupling member on said gutter cover is shaped for secure, yet detachable, reception in said female coupling member of said mounting bracket.

40. (currently amended) A cover assembly~~guard~~ as set forth in claim 39, wherein:

said mounting bracket includes at least one pin-shaped fastener for close reception in a mounting aperture of an associated gutter hanger.

41. (currently amended) A cover assembly~~guard~~ as set forth in claim 40, wherein:

said pin-shaped fastener comprises a push-in fastener.

42. (currently amended) A cover assembly~~guard~~ as set forth in claim 41, wherein:

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said front section of said gutter cover has an arcuately shaped lip section; and

said forward portion of said mounting bracket has an arcuately shaped forwardmost area shaped similar to and abutting said lip section of said gutter cover.

43. (currently amended) A cover assembly~~guard~~ as set forth in claim 42, wherein:

said gutter cover includes at least one protrusion shaped to impede rainwater flow into the interior of the gutter.

44. (currently amended) A cover assembly~~guard~~ as set forth in claim 43, wherein:

said mounting bracket includes a center wall portion.

45. (currently amended) A cover assembly~~guard~~ as set forth in claim 44, wherein:

said mounting bracket has a one-piece, integrally formed, molded construction of synthetic resin material.